

Veteran Orgs call on Pritzker and Public Health Agencies for Immediate Investigation of La Salle Home COVID Outbreak

Medal of Honor recipient Allen Lynch, County Veteran Assistance Commissions, Illinois VFW and others join as COVID-19 claims 24 in three weeks.

CHICAGO, 23 November 2020... While the 121 residents of the La Salle Veterans Home withstood attacks when in uniform, they now face an even more insidious attack from COVID-19. Since November 1, 104 veteran residents are now victims of the COVID-19 virus, as well as 94 staff members of the facility. Tragically, 27 of the home's residents have succumbed to the disease.

As Chicago and Illinois' most visible and highest-decorated veteran, Medal of Honor recipient Allen J. Lynch of Gurnee, IL is calling for an immediate investigation as to why the numbers at this home show a disproportionate percentage of La Salle home veterans at risk of their lives and that action be taken to mitigate similar impact at other Illinois and nationwide veteran communities.

"We are all inundated with numbers, stats and directives from our state and federal government to the point where they blur," said Lynch. "But even those with a no-more-than-rudimentary understanding of COVID-19 can see with this level of infection, something must be dramatically askew at the La Salle home.

Inquiries from various Illinois Veteran Assistance Commissions (VACs), veteran organizations, and even the media have been met with little more than lip service, and that has to come to an immediate end. Our veterans deserve much more than what they're getting from the Illinois Department of Public Health, Illinois Department of Veteran affairs and other government entities."

The facility received nearly \$8 million in federal COVID assistance. Lynch and others are rightfully questioning how those funds were used and why this situation exists.

"Not only do these veterans deserve answers, but so do their families," said Lynch. "If the same mitigation processes were in place at other veteran homes with far lower numbers, then we need to know what they were doing that La Salle that was not. Similarly, we need to protect other communities to make sure the same horrific outcome isn't repeated."

Lynch's sentiments were echoed by the Illinois Association of County Veterans Assistance Commissions. In a special session called to address the situation, the group approved a resolution recommending its members to not refer veterans to Illinois veteran homes, and further demanded action from officials from the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs, members of the Illinois Congressional Delegation, and members of the General Assembly of the State of Illinois.

Major General James H. Mukoyama (US Army RET), chairman and CEO of Military Outreach USA, said, "This situation needs immediate sunshine from the media and answers from the responsible licensing, management and certifying agencies, namely, the Illinois Department of

Public Health, Illinois Department of Veteran Affairs, and the US Department of Veteran Affairs.”

Laurie Emmer, Illinois VFW Commander, expressed similar sentiments.

“We are deeply concerned with the COVID outbreak at the La Salle Veterans Home," said Emmer. "We await answers. The Safety of our veterans and the staff caring for them is top priority. We ask for transparency. Our thoughts and prayers are with our veterans, the staff, and their families of the La Salle Veterans Home.”

STAND TO VETERANS AND VET ORGS. PLEASE SHARE. YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS NEED YOUR HELP. THANKS!

Sheridan's Chapter 1st Cavalry Division 1st Cavalry Division Association U.S. Army US NAVY USMC Vets U.S. Coast Guard Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW The American Legion National Headquarters American Legion Illinois - Fifth District Council 1st Infantry Division 25th Infantry Division 1st Cavalry Division 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) 82nd Airborne Division Anthony Shaffer Pete Hegseth Fox News Fox 32 Chicago CBS News NBC Chicago ABC 7 Chicago ABC News WGN TV WGN Morning News Laura Ingraham The Ingraham Angle

NEWS and ASSIGNMENT EDITORS NOTE:

Mr. Lynch will be available for in-person video comments or for further phone interview needs. To schedule, please contact Paul Brian via DM